GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:856
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
SHORTAGE OF COMPONENTS FOR SEA KING FLEET
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an acute shortage of critical components has affected the operational efficacy of Indian Navy's Sea King Fleet with 60% of its aircraft being grounded for want of spare parts;

(b) if so, the factors attributable thereto;

(c) whether any move to lift the sanctions or to have them relaxed has been made following the moves for withdrawal of ban on supply of arms by UK to Pakistan;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken to keep the Sea King Fleet operational?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s GKN WHL, UK have suspended all Product Support Activities for Seaking helicopters in India consequent upon the revocation of its license by the US firm after the imposition of US Sanctions in the wake of Pokharan- II. As such, the UK firm is neither supplying the required spares nor returning the critical components that were sent to it for repairs.

(c) & (d): The matter was taken up with the Government of UK who had informed that the US Government did not agree to relax sanctions for Seaking Helicopters. Despite the matter being taken up by the UK Government with the Government of US, the position continues to remain the same.

(e) The following steps have been taken by the Indian Navy:-

(i) A Joint Task Force comprising representatives from Indian Navy, HAL, CEMILAC and DGAQA has been set up to undertake indigenisation of equipment and spares affected by US Sanctions.

(ii) A Joint team from HAL and Indian Navy has carried out a feasibility study for overhaul and repair of equipment affected by the Sanctions.